

RUSSIA'S NEW DEAL FOR VETERANS  
already launched

Rose Maurer

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★ Russia's gigantic rehabilitation program has ended forever the worries of war veterans and their families.



## RUSSIA'S NEW DEAL FOR VETERANS—*already launched*

Adapted from the book  
*The USSR in Reconstruction*

Rose Maurer

**M**IKOLO, formerly a mechanic in a machine-tractor station servicing collective farms in the Khorolsk region of Central Russia, was returned from the battlefield minus his speech and hearing. The collective farmers of the neighborhood took him in to rest. But the deaf-mute veteran, unwilling to sit idly by, was soon teaching their inexperienced tractor drivers the tricks of the trade and making himself an invaluable member of the farming community.

With Russia's war machine at its peak, millions of disabled and physically-handicapped ex-servicemen like Mikolo have been restored to full participation in the fight against Fascism. Russia has no postwar rehabilitation problem; the job is being done today.

Veterans, discharged from base

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ROSE MAURER, former editor of *Russia at War* and of *The American Review of the Soviet Union*, is the author of numerous reports and articles on the Soviet Union.

hospitals where their wounds have been treated, are channeled into special medical institutions where they are retrained to make use of their unharmed limbs. These medical centers, located in Central Asia and the Far East—far from the battle zone—have a double purpose. They save lives, and at the same time save the labor power of the wounded.

Vocational training goes hand in hand with the finest medical care that the Government can provide. As health is restored with mud baths, physical exercises, prolonged sleep, mineral waters, serums, nerves from human corpses, and other aids which have been developed through medical research and experiments, veterans attend classes and learn new trades.

The courses of study are usually organized by industrial experts working for the People's Commissariat of Social Welfare—a Government agency charged with rehabilitation and care of veterans and their de-



# Was Pilot Deutsch friend or foe? —the army really didn't know!

By Bill Herbert, war correspondent for the CBC.

THE MEN in the Allied armed forces are developing into the greatest souvenir hunters in the world. But there's one man you can count out. He's Flying Officer Johnny Deutsch of Windsor, Ont., a fighter pilot with the RCAF, and he's strictly allergic . . . all because of his amazing experience on the Normandy bridgehead.

He had been flying with his Typhoon squadron when flak cut through his tail assembly and he bailed out. Picking himself up somewhere in Northern France, he walked boldly down a road littered with the wreckage of recent battle. Noting a German helmet on the ground, he tried it on. It fitted perfectly.

Then he came upon some Canadian infantrymen on patrol. Deutsch thought that he would have some fun. He clicked his heels, gave a German salute and shouted, "Heil Hitler!" Instantly the grim infantrymen had him covered.

Deutsch just laughed, unaware that in his faded blue battle dress, his blonde hair and his square features, he looked like a German Luftwaffe officer—even without that hel-

met. He said, "It's okay, boys, I'm only fooling." But the boys had heard all about the smooth line German officers had. They arrested him.

The raging Deutsch was shipped away as a prisoner of war. At the beach, he was questioned by Allied officers—and again when he arrived at a prisoner-of-war camp in England. His story that he'd pretended to be a German—right on the battlefield, didn't sound believable. To make matters worse, he had forgotten his identification papers.

Deutsch raised such a rumpus they finally brought his best friend to identify him. This was Flying Officer Roy Heath, of Salinas, Kan. He was marched into a room filled with prisoners, and standing among them was Deutsch. Roy Heath had a sense of humor, too. Staring at Deutsch with a poker face, he said, "Where's the guy who says he's from our squadron?"

Johnny Deutsch raced over to Heath. "Listen, you so-and-so! Shake my hand before I hit you with it!"

Deutsch is flying again. But if you have any German souvenirs to sell—he's definitely not interested.

pends.



In all such institutions the disabled veteran is fully supported by the Government. Among the trades he can study are: shoe-making, bookkeeping, motion-picture

techniques, photography, motor mechanics, tailoring, laboratory research, various phases of engineering, watchmaking, and so on. In labor homes and boarding homes intended for the more seriously injured, handicrafts are taught in the workshops.

But while the war invalid is encouraged by the fact that he is paid during his training period, he is primarily interested in job placement. A choice of jobs awaits him. Heads of factories and other Government enterprises have been ordered by their Government to find suitable work for all war invalids sent to them by the bureaus of the Social Welfare Commissariat. Those considered unfit for industry are placed in administrative or clerical jobs.

Andrei Bocharnikov, a tractor driver before the war, was returned from the front minus an arm. After a period of convalescence in a vocational medical center, he came back to the farm. Now he drives his tractor as efficiently as though he had two arms. And many returned casualties have been trained to do office

and administrative work for the collectives where they formerly farmed.

The great respect which the Russian people feel for the training given by the Red Army is manifested in the election of many disabled veterans to the chairmanship of collective farms and village soviets. The attitude of the people is that a soldier who fought against Fascism is a person to be honored and respected. They are going out of their way to make the life of the veterans and their families as comfortable and pleasant as possible.



Not all disabled veterans work in factories or fields. Work at home is arranged for those who are unable to go out to jobs. And some invalids do not work at all;

these are ex-servicemen who enter educational institutions or those injured so badly that they must pass their time in established homes for the permanently disabled.

Many former students and many who wished to enter institutions of higher learning are now having their desire fulfilled. Preference is given them in the way of opportunity, and if they have already completed ten years of preparatory school, they are freed from entrance examinations. Not only is tuition free, but the veteran receives a stipend to support himself while he studies.

other privileges. Red Army families are given new apartments as soon as they become available, old apartments are renovated without charge, a grant is made for the children born of servicemen to cover immediate needs, and a special allowance is paid to the mother for nine months.

Similar to the retail stores for disabled veterans and their families are the stores now being established for families of Red Army dead. While the population at large receives medical care without fee, first choice in hospitals and medical institutions is given to sick members of Red Army families. Clothes, fuel, and food are distributed as gifts.

The Red Army families are exempted from various taxes, and in addition, need not comply with the law which decrees that part of their crop must be sold to the Government, if they are farmers. Parents of Red Army men who have given their lives for their country are entitled to dependency allowances, and if they go to work, they can keep their wages as well. Where nursery and kindergarten facilities are not available, the grandmother or grandfather of a serviceman is a

most welcome addition to any family, and many of them who could take on factory jobs let the younger ones do so and enter domestic work instead.

In addition to the system of regular allowances to Red Army families, there are special financial awards to servicemen in connection with titles like that of "Hero of the Soviet Union." Awards are also made to the survivors of exceptionally heroic fighters—such as the award by the Council of People's Commissars providing a lump-sum payment of 10,000 rubles (approximately \$2000) to the mother of Test Pilot A. I. Nikishin, killed in line of duty, and 20,000 rubles (approximately \$4000) to his wife, as well as a 500-ruble monthly allowance for each child until the majority age of 18 is reached.

To ensure that Red Army families receive all that is due to them, there is a constant check up by Government and labor-union committees as well as by the local authorities, who see to it that dependents of soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice are provided with every convenience and facility that a grateful people is anxious to supply.



A politician handed his campaign card to a young boy. The boy said, "I am not old enough to vote," and the politician replied, "You will be before I quit running."



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